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SOCER WORLD

THE VOICE OF
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER

15c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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August 2, 1968.

Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

F.I.F.A. letter hints:

We'll play the World Cup ties in Israel

An extraordinary chain of events points to the very strong likelihood that all Australia's World Cup elimination matches will have to be played in Israel.

This much is clear from a letter we received this week from FIFA in Zurich and from ASF secretary Ian McAndrew's subsequent comments.

"NOT INFORMED"

FIFA's letter to SOCCER WORLD says in part:

"FIFA has only been informed unofficially that some of the seven participating countries met in Seoul to discuss and agree to a system for the preliminary matches, different to that decided by the FIFA Organising Committee for the two sub-groups of Group 15."

"The proposal, named the "McAndrew Plan," was never officially submitted to FIFA."

"FIFA was informed that the main reason was that Israel, who was represented by a delegate at the Seoul discussions, afterwards withdrew its approval of the proposed changes by an official cable from their football association."

"Under these circumstances, you will certainly agree that the ASF will never get the 'long-awaited reply from FIFA' as the proposals have not been submitted to FIFA, and were therefore never discussed by the Organising Committee."

"The reason why the proposal was never officially submitted to FIFA is obvious, because all the seven

interested national associations were either not consulted or did not agree.

"A plan to change the decision taken by the FIFA Organising Committee would certainly have at least needed unanimous support from the parties involved."

CONSULTATION

"From an 'unofficial report' you conclude that 'FIFA is keen to have all elimination matches played in Israel in the form of a giant tournament.'

"FIFA did not mark any preference for a venue for the tournament, but the decision of February 1968 of the FIFA Organising Committee suggested as

venues (in alphabetical order) Australia, Israel or Japan.

"So far only the Football Association of Israel have communicated their agreement to stage such a tournament."

"This is the full available information on the subject."

R. Courte,
Assistant Secretary,
FIFA.

McAndrew commented this week:

"It's not quite correct to say that FIFA had never been officially informed."

"The Asian Confederation secretary, Koe-Ewe-Teik, verbally communicated with FIFA secretary Dr. Helmut Kaser at Dubrovnik in June and later

Ian McAndrew also said that it might have been Israel who, by volunteering directly to FIFA have upset the carefully prepared Seoul applecart.

"The Israeli delegate at Seoul also signed the agreement, like the rest of us, but this was subject to his Association's approval."

"This apparently wasn't given and Israel have instead decided to stage the whole tournament."

UPSET



St. George skipper John Warren stretches out in a characteristic stance and seems to frighten the hell out of his Manly opponent in the process. Though Warren won this duel, Manly's whirlwind finish forced a 1-1 draw at Hurstville Oval last Saturday.

LEADERS POISED FOR COLLISION

Eleven goals from the 12 teams in six matches, less than one goal per team — that was the slim average last weekend, which also produced the unusual tally of four 1-1 draws.

In three of these affairs, to which the Saints have one measly point.

Let's hope their clash this Sunday will produce something really worthwhile.

Amazingly enough, all 12 teams have kept their places on the table after last weekend, due to the four draws no doubt.

Prague, just when they could have pulled a bit away from their pursuers, dropped their bundle at Woonona, giving the provincials their first taste of victory in 10 long weeks.

APIA once again failed at Lambert Park — and once again against Croatia whom they just can't beat.

Polonia, plodding on, have stayed in the semifinal race but Yugal and Croatia are now on the verge of losing contact.

Of the others, Canterbury have made the most notable contribution towards a brighter future by snatching a point from champion-elects Pan Hellenic.

Melita were darned unlucky to lose and the Saints, gradually improving, were unlucky not to win.

— Paul Dean

NSW Federation First Division

TEAM	AGGREGATE						HOME						AWAY						NEXT OPPONENT					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	P	W	D	L	F	A	* HOME MATCH			
Pan Hellenic	17	12	2	3	32	13	26	9	8	—	1	19	7	16	8	4	2	2	13	6	10	Hakoah*		
Hakoah	17	11	4	2	35	15	26	8	6	1	1	18	7	13	9	5	3	1	17	8	13	P. Hellenic		
Prague	17	9	3	5	31	21	21	7	6	1	—	14	1	13	10	3	2	5	17	20	8	APIA*		
APIA	17	7	7	3	28	22	21	8	4	3	1	12	8	11	9	3	4	2	15	14	10	Prague		
Polonia	17	8	4	5	24	20	20	9	4	2	3	14	13	10	8	4	2	2	10	7	10	St. George*		
Yugal	17	7	4	6	23	26	18	10	3	4	3	11	14	10	7	4	—	3	12	12	8	Croatia		
Croatia	17	7	3	7	24	27	17	8	3	2	3	10	11	8	9	4	1	4	14	16	9	Yugal*		
South Coast	17	5	4	8	29	24	14	8	5	—	3	24	12	10	9	—	4	5	5	12	4	Melita Eagles		
St. George	17	4	5	8	15	21	13	10	2	4	4	9	15	8	7	2	1	4	6	6	5	Polonia		
Melita Eagles	17	3	5	9	17	28	11	8	—	4	4	11	17	4	9	3	1	5	6	11	7	South Coast*		
Canterbury	17	3	5	9	22	43	11	8	2	3	3	10	14	7	9	1	2	6	12	29	4	Manly		
Manly	17	1	4	12	17	37	6	10	—	1	9	6	21	1	7	1	3	3	11	16	5	Canterbury*		

READERS' LETTERS

Crowds missing

"Crowds booming" your headline screamed last week, but the background of your "incident" shots show week after week only a handful of spectators if at all, with a very depressing effect indeed.

Where are the increasing crowds?

Why does not your photographer direct his camera toward the stands, giving the illusion rather of a large crowd instead of showing a few "by-standers?"

Only a thickly crowded background creates the "atmosphere" of this kind of picture.

Compare the "League" photos with the "soccer" ones and correct me if I am wrong.

Please do not regard these remarks as an intrusion in your affairs, but rather as a constructive criticism for the sake of promoting our game.

Tibor Wiener,
Sydney.

Mt. Isa calling

For quite a while now I have read your paper with great interest.

But, now with your cooperation, I am sure people down south should hear of Mt. Isa, as it now enjoys its "boomin' year" of soccer.

Though having only six teams, I am sure that these men and lads could put up a good show against any visiting team.

Also it would be pleasing to see results of our teams in your paper.

"Fan of Soccer World,"
(Name omitted).

If our anonymous reader sent us an occasional Mt. Isa report, we would be glad to consider it. —Ed.

Target missed

Ever since I have been here in Australia, "Soccer World" has always been of interest to me.

And as for the reports on our First Division is concerned, it gives a most excellent coverage.

But what about the Inter-Suburban?

Very seldom do I see a report on an inter-sub game.

Don't you think that it would be a good idea to at least print a few lines on a match of the week from each Division.

This, I feel, would help improve circulation, and add to a fuller coverage of the amateur scene, which I feel is sadly neglected.

A. Pearson,
Chelsea, F.C.

Every week we devote two full columns to the affairs of the Inter-Suburban and junior leagues; it is rather stunning how reader Pearson could have missed them with such consistency. —Editor.

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

The Australia Cup now seems certain to be extended until the end of October. Originally it was planned that the semifinals should be completed by the end of September and the final played the first Sunday in October. However, because of catastrophic attendances at midweek night fixtures, especially in Melbourne, the ASF wants the remaining matches to be played at weekends once the local Sydney and Melbourne competitions are completed. Two quarterfinal matches (Juventus Melbourne v. Azzurri-Perth and Croatia v. Hakoah (Melbourne) still have to be played before Sydney's Prague and Hakoah know their semifinal opponents. The semis, in October, will be played on a home-and-away basis, as will the final if teams from different States are involved.

Prague halfback, JIM BLACKER, had to be taken to hospital to have four stitches inserted on his forehead after colliding with Ron McGarry at halftime of last Sunday's match. The provincial ground is an unlucky one for Prague. Two years ago Grenville Jones suffered a similar injury and also had to be transported to hospital.

Referee HENKELMAN, too, has good cause to remember Woonona Oval. In the dying stages of the South Coast v. Prague match he received a hefty clearance by Jim Kelly straight in the face which knocked him cold for almost two minutes. Henkelman, however, was able to see the game through, though Prague officials claim he forgot to add on the two minutes during which he lay on the ground receiving assistance.

Fourth Division Inter-Suburban PROSPECT have pulled out of the competition. The NSW Federation has awarded CAMPBELLTOWN the two points for their abandoned match against Newtown Progressives a fortnight ago.

JIM DOUNIAS, the brilliant Greek centre-half who had an all too brief spell with Pan Hellenic, is back in Sydney. He won't be playing, however. He's only here on holidays, visiting a relative.

Congratulations to MICK FOSTER for his dedicated efforts in organising coaching clinics for juniors of Sutherland Shire. These clinics are held on Sunday mornings at Sylvania Oval, Box Road, Sylvania, at 9 a.m. Last Sunday week approximately 250 juniors attended and the following First Division players and ex-players (who all originated from the Canterbury District) conducted classes on basic skills: John Warren, John Watkiss, Brian Smith, Rex Foster, Bob Morris, Peter Pascales, Greg Armstrong. They were assisted by Arthur Elvey (ex-Gladesville-Ryde grade player and NSW Schoolboys), Cec Campbell (of the Coaches Federation) and Harry Preece. The best junior in each of 10 groups was presented with a soccer ball at the conclusion of the clinic. The next clinic will be held on August 18.

It's not often we can hand bouquets to Sydney's morning newspapers, but the SUN-DAY TELEGRAPH can step forward and take a bow for innovating with two full pages of junior football results. An unmistakable sign that soccer is the most popular junior code: round ball results take up almost two thirds of the double-spread. Good to see that at least one newspaper is prepared to give more than lip service to junior football.

A serious blow to struggling St. George. Their ace goal-scoring forward, DAVID CLISS, is injured and may miss the next few games.

How is this for determination... A BOY from an under-6 team fielded by Lane Cove against East Gosford decided he wanted to score. And so he did... by running the full length of the field, chased by 21 other players. The trouble was he ran the wrong way and it was an own goal...

Newcastle High is the first school to win a semifinal berth in the 1968 TASMAN CUP. Newcastle gained a 3-0 win over Granville at Macarthur Park. Other quarterfinals are Strathfield South v. Cessnock, Punchbowl v. Corrimal, and Newcastle Tech. v. Sefton. Full third round results are: Newcastle v. Booragul (holders) 2-1; Strathfield South v. Balgowlah 6-4; Cessnock v. Cleveland Street 3-1; Corrimal v. Epping 2-1; Punchbowl v. Gymea 4-2; Sefton v. Liverpool 2-1; Granville v. Port Hacking 2-0; Newcastle Tech. v. Hunters Hill 8-4.

"We wuz robbed"— cried all Canterbury players last Sunday. They were not referring to Pan Hellenic's last-minute equaliser but to the UNHAPPY event in their dressing room: while they were out on the pitch, some noble soul emptied their pockets, taking all the cash from the players. Inter-Suburban Riverside Rapid suffered the same fate last week—most of their players' valuables were missing after their match against Enmore at Mackay Park.

Former University of NSW player and president, PETER BAYLISS, is now an associate professor in Toronto, Canada. Still a great soccer enthusiast, Peter took up his Canadian appointment to further his career in geology.

State under-16 coach, BILL STOEVELAAR, is leaving no stone unturned in his quest for the best available under-16 material for the national championships in Melbourne in four weeks. At the same time the NSW Federation is seeking a scheme to get the best youth players from First Division, Second Division, CHSAAA, and the NSW Amateurs, by proposing suitable play-off matches between representative teams from these organisations prior to the 1969 series.

"This probably was my last game," said HERBERT NI-NAUS last Sunday, limping with a badly pulled hamstring muscle. "From now on I'll definitely stick to coaching." Let's hope he'll change his mind.

John Roche and Bob McAneny of SUTHERLAND are still on the injured list and are not expected to be back for at least another two weeks.

NICK CLATWORTHY, a Sutherland reserve grader, was injured in the game against Marconi when he received a cut above his eye that required ten stitches.

The score in an INTER-SERVICES soccer game was 33-0, and Kenny Edwards, Auburn's centre-forward until a few weeks ago, scored 28 of them. The army awarded him a medal for his stupendous effort.

The NSW under-18 team will tour NEW CALEDONIA, starting at the end of August. The team will play three matches before returning on September 6. Bill Vrolyk, being unable to take time off work to accompany the team,

the NSW Coaches Federation will appoint a new coach for the tourists, probably Barry Salisbury.

JIM PRATT, the former Auburn president and one of Sydney's leading soccer identities, underwent an emergency operation last Friday for gall stones at St. Stephen's Church of England Hospital, Maryborough, Queensland. Pratt took ill while holidaying in the Northern Queensland sunshine in his caravan with his wife. Our wishes for a prompt recovery.

Balgownie's pint-sized inside-forward, FRED THOMPSON, left the club last week to join Jim Noonan's stables at Randwick as an apprentice-jockey.

BILL HIGGINS, the former Lion (Adelaide) coach, has now settled in Sydney. An English professional who played in Colombia, South America, when that country broke away from FIFA in the early 1950s, Higgins is keen to coach a Sydney club. He had remarkable success in South Australia. Taking Lion over this season, he transformed the team into one of Adelaide's best, now challenging Hellas for the First Division lead.

The draw for the new \$300 series of FOOT-TENNIS matches will be made at the St. George Club this Monday evening. Participants are invited to attend. Entries, incidentally, close on Sunday night.

Weston enthusiast, BILL BEANEY, is busy in Newcastle canvassing plans for a 12-team Northern First Division for 1969, as against 10 teams now. He advocates more attention to the district system. The remarkable feature is that Beaney this year completes half a century of active soccer service, being in his 77th year. He was the first secretary of the State Soccer League, and managed the Australian team which defeated the English amateur side at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1937. He helped to arrange the Australian tour by India.

Several of the extremely talented MELITA EAGLES youngsters, including Quested and Smith, are playing as amateurs — and thus free to go anywhere after the season. The same applies to the entire Manly team. Smith, Quested, Tuinman, Campbell, Waller and some others are certain to receive many approaches from other clubs soon.

The NSW COACHES Federation will hold a "forum" on August 5 — next Monday — at 8 p.m. at the St. George-Budapest club, Mortdale. Topic for discussion will be "how to improve our soccer". Federation officials, players, referees and the Press, TV and Radio have been invited to air their views.

CORRECTION

Due to a typographical error, we showed APIA's total 1967 championship attendance on Page 1 last week as 69,200. It should, of course, read 96,200.

Players' Contest

Marnoch ahead of De Bruin

Alan Marnoch is still the undisputed leader in the SOCCER WORLD-FLOTTA LAURO Players' Contest.

In recent weeks, however, the Hakoah skipper's average has shrunk, and now stands at 4.35 points after 17 championship rounds.

Marnoch still maintains what looks like a winning lead over his nearest challenger, Melita's De Bruin, who has moved into second place for the first time.

There are still five matches to go before the winner will be officially announced.

The lucky player's prize will be a six-day cruise to New Zealand donated by the famous Flotta Lauro shipping company.

He will travel on one of their luxury liners: the "Achille Lauro" or the "Angelina Lauro."

The current standings:

Marnoch (Hakoah)	4.35
De Bruin (Melita)	4.11
Reynolds (Croatia)	4.07
Banicevic (Yugoslavia)	4.05
Rafanelli (Yugoslavia)	4.05
Scheinflug (Prague)	4.05
Zeman (Prague)	4.05
Schaefer (St. George)	4.00

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OUR ADDRESS

We ask our readers, correspondents and advertisers to send all their mail to Box 5061, GPO, Sydney.

Letter of the week

"Apartheid" soccer advocated for NSW

Rumblings of discontent are again erupting on the local Sydney soccer scene.

I am no expert or administrator, just an ordinary enthusiast but some of the remedies prescribed by people who are supposed to be experts has convinced me that my views could certainly be no less intelligent.

It seems to me that none of our expert club officials or administrators can quite understand the principle of "accommodation" to solve soccer's problems.

Whether I or anybody else likes it or not, the fact is that migrant clubs are providing a service for their respective communities.

This service, I feel, should be maintained for as long as there are enthusiasts who will keep these clubs going.

I also feel that following Pan Hellenic's success in luring a top Greek star to Australia, other migrant clubs are being severely hampered by not being allowed to bring out players from their own countries of origin ONLY AS guest players or for short periods to increase their "crowd appeal".

Let's face it: that's all there is to it — crowd appeal.

The migrant followers of a club will always want to see top class players from their original countries — what's wrong with that?

The other side of the story concerns the district set-up.

The potential of district soccer as a spectator sport is enormous in this State — but equally enormous are the needs.

The wastage among the juniors of potentially good talent and the losses to other

clubs can only be described as tragic.

Maybe some people will think I am contradicting myself by supporting both the needs of the migrant group and those of the districts but I firmly believe that this great game should belong to all of the people who love it, not just the migrants who now control it or the districts who also demand the exclusive control to themselves.

This is why I believe that the policy of "accommodation" is the only way for soccer in NSW.

To achieve this I feel we will have to split officially into two separate competitions: the migrant clubs and the district ones.

HARD WORK

As the migrant clubs all but in name control the so-called Sydney First Division competition, I feel few major changes are necessary except in the make-up of the teams' playing staff.

As I have already pointed out, it would be desirable for the migrant clubs to gradually or as soon as possible dispose of their locally-bred players at no cost to the district clubs and replace them with imported players preferably from the nation that the club represents.

The problems of forming a fully professional State League with district clubs from Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong initially, which I believe is the best bet for district soccer in NSW, are enormous.

To bring all the proposed district clubs up to a worthwhile standard and as well provide a solid financial base does involve at least five years of hard work.

PROFESSIONAL

Perhaps the only way to organise a competition like this is to set up an all-powerful promotions committee which, as well as organising the leagues, would also help in the development of the many new clubs that would be born.

As the first few years will be vital for the new clubs, expert outside help should be welcomed if they are to achieve their aim of becoming a specialist, fully professional club with a sound financial basis.

Why I feel we must have professionalism to help district soccer and the proposed State League to succeed is because professionalism is universal in all major soccer countries; even more importantly, this is the only way to make the most of our talented youngsters.

Western Suburbs are not kidding when they say that they will never be fully successful with their present professional program until many other clubs follow their lead.

Although Bankstown are probably the only other soccer club at present in Sydney with the financial resources to follow Wests' lead, one cannot really blame them for not rushing into this as yet.

This brings us back to the real backbone of district soccer — the district soccer associations.

These hold the key to the future of district soccer.

They have first choice in utilising the junior talent by forming strong senior district clubs.

The alternative is to see a lot of good soccer potential wasted.

The old story of taking migrant clubs to the districts doesn't work to anybody's satisfaction.

No club has made a more determined and more honest and genuine attempt than the Budapest club in the St. George district.

And the only concrete achievement has been the enormous growth of junior soccer which was achieved by the St. George-Budapest Junior Association — at Budapest's expense.

CHALLENGE

The moral is that no soccer club can have the best of both worlds, only in theory.

The challenge to organise and build strong district competition of any sort lies with the enthusiasts in the districts, and it cannot be put on somebody else's plate or hidden under the carpet.

Why I think it is extremely important to include Newcastle and Wollongong in a new league is because these are two former soccer strongholds now much depleted and in desperate need of reorganisation and rationalisation.

Though down, they are not out and if they can be properly utilised, they could greatly contribute to a State League.

I think it is clear what I am trying to say: I should be able to go to district soccer if I like but those who demand migrant soccer should also have their wishes respected.

I also want to see more players like Loukanidis to come over here even for short periods.

Being realistic and asking for all this from the present set-up is too much perhaps; that is why I have suggested these radical changes to make soccer more readily available to as many people as possible.

We can hardly bring top players from overseas and yet encourage and develop our youngsters at the same time in the same competition, nor is there enough room for both district and migrant clubs in the present competition.

Let us bury once and all this half-way house theory adopted by Budapest with good intentions.

"Soccer Fan"
Waverley.

(Name withheld at writer's request.)

* We have departed from our practice of not publishing long letters because of the original ideas and new concepts advanced by our reader.

We can't say we agree with all his arguments; neither are we convinced that separate leagues for districts and migrants are desirable.

However, here is a fresh idea — backed by some sound reasoning — and we would be pleased to hear more views on the subject.

— Editor.

RAMSEY NEEDS SPEARHEAD FOR ENGLAND

— From LESLIE PAGE* in London —

England's failure in the European Championship did little to shake the belief here that English soccer continues to ride fairly high.

The public has yet to seriously consider the problems of Mexico in 1970.

Sir Alfred Ramsey, on the other hand, although calm and placid by nature, knows full well that only two full seasons lie ahead in which he has to coordinate his planning and tactics.

The immediate future for the England squad was clouded in late July by the failure of the authorities to discover suitable opposition for the national side.

The entire "home" program next season against Scotland, Wales and Ireland will be staged within one week in a giant tournament at the end of the League programs in May.

This experiment, it is hoped, will prevent the cancellation of mid-season fixtures by international calls, giving Ireland and Wales the opportunity of fielding very much stronger combinations than they have over the past few years.

With traditional matches thus reorganised, England have four open dates in late 1968 and early 1969 which they must fill with some rapidity.

Irrespective of fixtures, possibly, England's main selection problem concerns the pin-pointing of a blunt spearhead or striker par excellence.

Managers and coaches have called these men many things from blunderbus to "Big Fella."

It all comes to the same thing. Despite skills of an extraordinary character and ball-play of high quality, the footballer who can blast his way through defensive walls and score goals is still the most sought after individual in the game.

Ramsey has never failed to stand by Roger Hunt, of Liverpool even when the player fell below standard.

Hunt is fearless and he is big.

Geoff Hurst was somewhat more delicate, but he has taken some "stick" these last few campaigns, especially last season.

Hurst, one feels, will go to the Mexico World Cup games: Hunt's place remains problematical.

"I can go on playing for many more seasons in a withdrawn role," said Bobby Charlton before Manchester United's great European Cup win.

The pressure is off him; he can plan and move at will.

Alan Ball appears to like brick walls; in any case, he fits from this place to that, perpetual motion personified.

* Leslie Page is one of the most prominent London soccer writers. His articles appear regularly in "World Soccer", "Soccer Star" and other publications. This article is a special written for SOCCER WORLD. In future, Leslie Page will write for us exclusively in Australia.

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FLOTTA LAURO

SYDNEY RESULTS AND DETAILS

RESULTS & SCORERS	HOW THEY LINED UP	SUMMING UP THE MATCHES	COACHES COMMENT
St. George 1 (1) Warren 45 min.	Haffey 3 (replaced by Hopkins in 71 min.); Nuttall 4; Hillary 3; Schaefer 4; Cox 4; Kane 4; Harris 3; Cliss 2 (McCue 2); Warren 4; Nowakowski 3; Fernandez 4. TOTAL: 38 Coach: G. Polgar.	Match rating: * * *	Gyula Polgar: "We had that many chances, especially in the first half, that we should have won handsomely. Yet, Manly with very little of the ball, forced a draw. That's football!"
Manly 1 (0) Waller 88 min.	Tuinman 4; McGrath 4; Brooks 4; Parker 3 (replaced Jones in 13th min.); Campbell 4; Jagger 4; Hughes 2; Maloney 3; Nutt 3; Hendry 3; Waller 4. TOTAL: 38 Coach: D. Adrián.	Crowd: 1,011. Referee: N. Campbell. — LOU GAUTIER	Denes Adrián: "We also missed a few incredible sitters. If the boys had played all along as they did in the last few minutes, we would have won even though St. George fielded four Australian internationals."
Hakoah 2 (0) De Bruin (o.g.) 60 min.; Baartz 82 min.	Fuzes 4; Fekete 3; Hillsdon 3; Watkiss 3; Marnoch 4; D. Yaager 3; Edmunds 3; Barnett 2 (Walsh 4); Keddie 3; Baartz 3; Jones 4. TOTAL: 35 Coach: D. Holden.	Match rating: * * * *	Doug Holden: "Not the best of games, but that lucky goal by De Bruin was what we needed. We have so many players out of form that they made Melita look exceptionally good."
Melita E. 0 (0)	Eaton 4; Hunter 4; De Bruin 4; Edwards 4; Woods 3; Duffy 4; Quested 4; Smith 3; Thorne 3; Hewlett 2; Brennan 4. TOTAL: 39 Coach: J. Vlasits.	Melita Eagles were dreadfully unlucky to lose. Actually they should have beaten the out-of-form Hakoah hands down. Persevering with their youthful outfit, Melita made Hakoah's star-studded side look positively second rate, especially in the first half when Hakoah were forced to defend desperately to stave off the fiery Melita attack. However, only the points matter, and Hakoah took both, being aided by an own goal by De Bruin which broke Melita's back, but not their spirit. Though the visitors lost Bobby Smith 20 minutes from the end, they still matched Hakoah up to the final whistle. A moral victory to Melita though "Lady Luck" reserved all of her favors to Hakoah. Crowd: 2,129. Referee: M. Buchanan. — CHARLES SPITERI	Joe Vlasits: "At last we 'killed the Chinaman'. The boys played one of their best games and nobody would deny that we were a two-goal better side all round. We were unlucky to loose Smith because despite our bad luck we could have pulled the game out of the fire."
A.P.I.A. 1 (1) Campbell 31 min.	Taylor 3; Van Blerk 3; Ackerley 4; Hughes 3; Sambrook 4; Blue 3; McKinnon 2 (Sileoni 2); Campana 4; Di Lonardo 3; Campbell 4; Giacometti 3. TOTAL: 36 Coach: A. Iglesias.	Match rating: * * *	Adauto Iglesias: "We should have won by three goals, but for some reason the team went back in defence in the last 15 minutes, letting Croatia off the hook."
Croatia 1 (0) R. Cush 89 min.	Corry 4; Lincoln 4; Sloan 3; Shepherd 4; Woods 3; Page 3; Reynolds 3; Wright 4; John Sambrook 2 (Guerrera 2); R. Cush 3; Giles 3. TOTAL: 36 Coach: W. Vrolyks.	Again the Croatia hoodoo followed APIA, who, however, had no one to blame but themselves for dropping a point. APIA should have won hands down, but threw one chance after the other to the winds. Throughout the match it was all APIA and when Campbell — their best forward on the day — scored after 31 minutes they seemed set for a comfortable win. Croatia's rugged defence held firm, however, to restrict APIA's scoring. With 10 minutes to go, APIA, for some inexplicable reason, went completely defensive, letting Croatia's attack come into the match for the first time. After missing a "sitter" a few minutes from the end, R. Cush redeemed himself by equalizing right on full-time. In all a sloppy match, with poor passing throughout. Crowd: 3,554. Referee: H. Parsons. — EDDIE EVANS	Bill Vrolyks: "We had two real chances, and took one to force a draw. We have definitely the best team of tries in Sydney. The boys never give up."
Sth. Coast 1 (0) Alston 83 min.	Ramage 5; Barnes 3; Cuthbert 4; Kelly 3; Carr 4; Davies 3; Alston 3; Anderson 4; Tolson 4; McGarry 5; Tuckerman 2 (Beattie 3). TOTAL: 40 Coach: J. Kelly.	Match rating: * * * *	Jim Kelly: "People who talk about defensive football, take notice: we had the best chances. Prague played the better football, but couldn't break through our defence."
Prague 0 (0)	King 3; Harcombe 4; Tracey 3; Lowry 3 (replaced Blacker 30 min.); Zeman 4; Blanco 5; Moulson 3; G. Manuel 4; Scheinflug 5; Hoggart 3; Armytage 2. TOTAL: 39 Coach: J. Venglos.	Excellent individual performances on both sides resulted in a fast, even and exciting battle. Prague were most impressive in the first half with their crisp passing, but could not penetrate the solid South Coast defence. Ramage excelled in the United goal with a number of brilliant saves and was far busier than his Prague counterpart. McGarry, the schemer, was Prague's downfall in the second half. Finding his best form, he instilled a new lease of life to his forwards. It was a brilliant back header from McGarry, which foisted Zeman, Harcombe and Hoggart, which allowed the unmarked Alston to score the winning goal. For the first time in nine weeks Woonona supporters went home smiling. Crowd: 2,432. Referee: J. Henkelman. — LEN SIMMONS	Joe Venglos: "A very hard and even game. Prague made one mistake which cost us a point. I feel that Prague's goal from an indirect free-kick should have been allowed as Ramage touched the ball before it fell over the line."
Canterbury 1 (0) Taylor 73 min.	Demopoulos 5; Whitehead 4; Hardy 4; Stripelis 5; Taylor 3; Galbraith 4; Massi 2; Ninaus 3 (Rinos 2); Hood 2; Romanos 4; Paxinos 2. TOTAL: 38 Coach: H. Ninaus.	Match rating: * * *	Herbert Ninaus: "I was proud of the boys. If Paxinos had taken his enormous chance at 1-0, the game would have been wrapped up, as it should have been. At Arlington we would have murdered them."
Hellenic 1 (0) Petrou 89 min.	Clarke 4; Omeros 3; Hignett 5; McCulloch 4; Mallard 3; Westwater 4; Blitz 2 (Patrinios 2); Smith 4; Loukanidis 4; Petrou 2; Karyannis 2. TOTAL: 37 Coach: W. Tamandl.	The fire in this match would have been woefully inadequate to rekindle the embers on Mount Olympus. The pleasingly large crowd was silent for most of the match, a measurable proof for the absence of great deeds. Pan Hellenic, seemingly uncomfortable in the role of Sydney's glamor team, played once again without any master-plan, placing all their hopes in some goalmouth happenings. This, to be sure, ultimately did arrive, almost in the last moment, to save their neck when Pterou stabbed at a loose ball and scored what may be the most vital goal of his career so far. Crowd: 9,600. Referee: A.R. Brown. — PAUL DEAN	Walter Tamandl: "Our last-minute goal may have been lucky — but earlier in the piece, with a bit of luck, we could have sewn up the match. Still, I must admit that we didn't play well at all."
Yugal 1 (1) Halpin 15 min.	Ljujich 3; Pacanin 4; Crnic 3; Kresinger 3; Banicevic 4; Rafaneli 5; J. Aalagich 3; M. Alagich 3; Halpin 3; Clancy 3; Volar 3. TOTAL: 37 Coach: F. Dunaj.	Match rating: * * *	Ferdo Dunaj: "We had any amount of chances. I am afraid that apart from Halpin's beautiful header we never even looked like scoring. We must finish off our movements."
Polonia 1 (1) Urbanik 11 min.	Fraser 3; Filok 3; Skiba 3; Adamson 4; Addison 3; Komoder 4; Povey 4; Minol 4; Urbaniak 3; Krawiarz 3; Calphy 3. TOTAL: 37 Coach: J. Horinek.	It was a pity that both teams could not continue their bright first half offering throughout the match. Yugal depended upon Rafaneli for their share of both ball and territory, and rarely was he found wanting. Komoder and Minol handled the same task admirably for Polonia, who had more of the play without ever seeming dangerous. It was different for Yugal — they "bombed" their breakaway chances with the consummate ease of real masters. After all, the stage was set for them, Dzialach being absent from Polonia due to a foot injury. And so a draw was a logical decision. Crowd: 2,056. Referee: A. Boskovic. — KEITH GILMOUR	Joe Horinek: "Next match we will need to do much better. If you don't shoot, you can't score, and if you can't score, you just can't win."

SUMMIT MEETING AT W. PARK FULL OF PROMISE

—By LOU GAUTIER—

With only a few decimal points separating Pan Hellenic and Hakoah at the top, their direct confrontation on Sunday afternoon will be for very high stakes.

Whoever wins will have taken a giant step towards the championship title which, semifinals notwithstanding, is the traditional and universally accepted plumb of any soccer competition.

To add to the week's attractions, four of the other five semifinal candidates will also clash head-on.

The winner of the Prague v. APIA tie will have improved its prospects for a third place while the loser of the Croatia v. Yugal match will drop out of the race.

The weekend's prognosis:

Melita Eagles v. South Coast

Having at long last ended their depressing run of outs at Prague's expense last weekend, South Coast will travel to Sydney in a much brighter frame of mind on Saturday.

Still chasing that elusive win in Sydney, the visitors' task at Mona Park won't be an easy one.

The visitors' fortunes will again depend on their schemer, McGarry, who can be a match-winner when the mood strikes him.

South Coast's long-awaited return to form notwithstanding, we plump for a draw which would satisfy both parties, especially Melita anxious to move higher up the ladder.

Polonia v. St. George

Polonia's fate is in their own hands this weekend as a win on Saturday could put them in the "top four."

Despite the Jeremiahs

and Doubting Thomases, has conceded more goals Polonia are still very much than Pan Hellenic's, so we can assume that Hakoah's forwards will hold the key to the match.

The promising debut of Englishman Kane and Nowakowski last Saturday may enable St. George to make a welcome return to form in the last five competition rounds.

Polonia's greatest threat at Marks Field may come from St. George skipper, Johnny Warren, who, against Manly, was more like the Warren of old.

Polonia, on current form, must be favored.

Pan Hellenic v. Hakoah

Sunday's match at the summit between the runaway joint competition leaders comes somewhat at an awkward time for both Pan Hellenic and Hakoah.

Ironically, neither team has displayed in their last couple of games, the form to entitle them to their big lead over the rest of the field.

This, however, shouldn't deter a near-record crowd from turning up at Wentworth Park, assuring that the atmosphere and big-match tension will be right.

Pan Hellenic can be quite irresistible on their day, but inconsistency is still their greatest failing. Too often they flatter only to deceive while Hakoah, without ever truly reaching ecstatic heights, rarely lose their bearings altogether.

The much-maligned Hakoah forward-line, for all its flaws, has scored more goals than any other team.

Their defence, their forte, on the other hand,

has conceded more goals than Pan Hellenic's, so we can assume that Hakoah's forwards will hold the key to the match.

Hakoah appear much stronger on the wings where Jones and Edmunds could play a vital role.

Pan Hellenic will be looking to Loukanidis for a match-winning display after his "quiet" game last week. His clash with Marnoch, alone will be worth the visit to Wentworth Park.

All in all there's little to choose between these two giants of the 1968 Sydney soccer scene, but we take Hakoah to win.

Croatia v. Yugal

Both teams can still reach the semis, though it would take an extraordinary set of circumstances for either to make a Sports-ground appearance next month.

Always at ease at Lambert Park where the small pitch seems to suit their style, Croatia will, as usual, pin their hopes on their defence.

Since Yugal, too, have been better served by their defenders than by their forwards recently, goals may

CROWDS

Last weekend's attendance: 20,782.

Average per match: 3,463.

Attendance after 17 rounds: 301,428.

Weekly average attendance: 17,730.

ROUND 19

be few and far between at Leichhardt.

Don't think, however, this will be an insipid match: Croatia-Yugal matches, if anything, are rarely dull. Their followings' bitter rivalry sees to that!

On current form, little separates the teams.

With the talent available Yugal can be satisfied with their results to date.

Croatia haven't done as well as they hoped but have an excellent chance to complete a winning double over their arch-rivals this weekend.

Ominously for Prague, the only time APIA really clicked this year, besides their splendid victory over Hakoah three weeks ago, was in their first round encounter which APIA won 5-1.

APIA's recent form, however, does not suggest anything like another 5-1 on Sunday.

APIA, however, still have what it takes to really turn it on, so it will be up to their forwards to seize the many chances which almost always come their way in the course of 90 minutes.

Determined to upset their last five opponents' applecart, they aim to open their winning account at home against Canterbury on Sunday — a formidable task.

Canterbury would be justified to travel to Manly with optimism.

Undefeated in their last five outings, the Berries are now a match for any team, as Pan Hellenic found out last Sunday when they escaped a face-losing defeat by the skin of their teeth, and rather luckily at that.

Canterbury, despite Manly's good intentions, should return from the sea-side with the two points.

Prague v. APIA

Prague's first-class record at home puts them in good stead for another Marks Field triumph.

APIA haven't lost that often, but only a handful of their displays this season have been reminiscent of the APIA of old.

Ominously for Prague, the only time APIA really clicked this year, besides their splendid victory over Hakoah three weeks ago, was in their first round encounter which APIA won 5-1.

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Canterbury would be justified to travel to Manly with optimism.

Prague, nevertheless, get our nod for the two precious points. They were anything but disgraced last week at Woonona where they had what appeared to be a perfectly valid goal disallowed.

MELITA EAGLES

EATON
HUNTER
DE BRUIN
EDWARDS
WOODS
DUFFY
QUESTED
GOLDFIE
THORNE
HEWLETT
BRENNAN

SOUTH COAST

RAMAGE
BARNES
CUTHBERT
KELLY
CARR
DAVIES
ALSTON
ANDERSON
TOLSON
McGARRY
BEATTIE

POLONIA

FRASER
FILOK
SKIBA
ADAMSON
DZIALACH
KOMODER
POVEY
MINOL
URBANIAK
KRAWIARZ
CALPHY

ST. GEORGE

HAFFEY
NUTTALL
HILLARY
SCHAFFER
COX
KANE
HARRIS
WARREN
MCALLIOG
NOWAKOWSKI
FERNANDEZ

PAN HELLENIC

CLARKE
JOHNSTON
HIGNETT
McCULLOCH
COLE
WESTWATER
BLITZ
SMITH
LOUKANIDIS
PETROU
KARYANNIS

HAKOAH

FUZES
FEKETE
HILLSDON
WATKISS
MARNOC
D. YAAGER
EDMUND
WALSH
BARNETT
BAARTZ
JONES

MANLY

TUINMAN
McGRATH
BROOKS
PARKER
CAMPBELL
JAGGER
HUGHES
MALONEY
NUTT
HENDRY
WALLER

CANTERBURY

DEMOPoulos
WHITEHEAD
HARDY
STRIPELIS
TAYLOR
GALBRAITH
MASSI
RINOS
HOOD
ROMANOS
PAXINOS

CROATIA

CORRY
LINCOLN
SLOAN
CURRY
SHEPHERD
PAGE
REYNOLDS
WRIGHT
GILES
R. CUSH
F. CUSH

YUGAL

LJUJIC
PACANIN
CRNICH
LANG
BANICEVIC
RAFANELI
J. ALAGICH
M. ALAGICH
HALPIN
CLANCY
VOLAR

PRAGUE

KING
HARCOMBE
TRACEY
BLACKER
ZEMAN
BLANCO
MOULSON
G. MANUEL
SCHEINFLUG
HOGGART
ARMYTAGE

APIA

TAYLOR
VAN BLERK
ACKERLEY
HUGHES
SAMBROOK
BLUE
McKINNON
CAMPANA
DI LONARDO
CAMPBELL
GIACOMETTI

TEAM OF THE WEEK

DEMOPoulos (Canterbury)

NUTTALL
(St. George)

STRIPELIS
(Canterbury)

SMITH
(Pan Hellenic)

POVEY
(Polonia)

CAMPBELL (Manly)

HIGNETT (Pan Hellenic)

RAFANELI
(Yugal)

McGARRY
(SCU)

JONES
(Hakoah)

REFEREES

Polonia v. St. George — P. Rampley; Melita Eagles v. SCU — L. Rae; Prague v. APIA — A. Boskovic; Pan Hellenic v. Hakoah — H. Parsons; Manly v. Canterbury — K. Lockrey; Croatia v. Yugal — G. Naylor.

LEADING SCORERS

Baartz (Hakoah)	11
Alston (SCU)	10
B. Smith (Pan Hellenic)	10
Karyannis (Pan Hellenic)	9
McGarry (SCU)	9
R. Cush (Croatia)	9
Cliss (St. George)	8
Edwards (Yugal)	8
G. Manuel (Prague)	8

VITAL STATISTICS

Croatia v. Yugal 6-1-4 Polonia v. St. George 3-2-4

Taking their form over the last five weeks, Croatia have won five, Yugal seven points.

Yugal's away record is better than their home one, possibly another pointer.

In the past these two served up some extra-ordinary matches and results; in the first round, 3-0 for Croatia.

Prague v. APIA 9-3-11

Prague fans will hate to be reminded that they have not beaten APIA since 1965; in fact, Prague have lost all their last five encounters.

As a piece of consolation, let us add that Prague's home record this year is really stupendous: six wins out of seven games, one draw — and only one goal conceded.

APIA in their last 12 matches have lost only once. In first round 5-1 for APIA.

Melita v. S. Coast 1-0-2

Well now, this is interesting. Melita in 1968 have not won at home; South Coast in 1968 have not won away.

Taking the total number of their efforts, one should offer the mean odds of 17/1 on against the possibility of a draw.

In the first round South Coast won 2-0.

Manly v. Canterbury 5-5-5

Pan Hellenic have a formidable home record; also, they have remained unbeaten for seven rounds.

Hakoah's away record is patchy and their recent form even more so.

But it's slightly foolish to speak of home ground in this case as they share the Park. In the first round, 2-0 for Hakoah.

Manly v. Canterbury 0-0-1

Canterbury have risen so fast that they may be suffering from the bends: seven points in their last five games was worth more to them than a decompression chamber.

Manly have played 10 games at home this year for one draw and nine losses — hardly worth the bother, one may say sardonically.

Should Manly lose here, they can start inquiring about the Second Division draw for '69. In the first round, 3-1 for the Berries.

RESULT SCOREBOARD

FIRST DIVISION	APIA	St. George	Croatia	P. Hellenic	Hakoah	Canterbury	Prague	Polonia	Yugal	Melita Eagles	S. Coast	Manly
APIA	● 1-0	1-1	1-0	2-2	1-1	5-1	1-3	1-0				
St. George	1-1 ●	1-4	1-1	0-2	1-0	1						



ROUND THE WORLD

Pele in jail

Pele and six other Santos players as well as club president Antonio Goncalves were arrested and gaoled for a few hours after a riot in Bogota. Santos played the Colombian Olympic team and were up 4-2 when Santos players attacked Colombian referee Velasquez. With Pele went Lima, Amauri, Pepe, Laercio, Overdan and Ramos, all arrested personally by Bogota police chief Cadena — himself a great soccer fan.

Tests for Olympic players

Soccer players at the Mexico Olympics will undergo dope tests. At the conclusion of every match two players will be chosen at random from each team for drug-detection tests. In the event of a test proving positive, the guilty player's team will be disqualified.

French juniors in Noumea

The French national junior team, runners-up in this year's European Junior Championship, opened their South Pacific tour with a 3-1 win over the New Caledonian "Colts" in Noumea last week. France played another two games in New Caledonia before moving to Tahiti and the US West Coast. Last Sunday they lost 1-2 against a Noumea junior XI.

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Jimmy Greaves, England's top goalgetter, could play in Second Division this season. Middlesbrough have offered \$180,000 for Spurs' sharpshooter. Bill Nicholson, the Tottenham manager, would be prepared to sell Greaves to Middlesbrough in exchange for \$150,000 plus their 23-year-old centre-forward John Hickton.

● The Italian FA has just celebrated its 70th birthday.

● Yugoslav international Mirsad Fazlagic is a successful male model in his home town of Sarajevo.

● Andy Davidson has hung up his boots after 598 matches with Hull City, the English club he joined in 1947.

● Well-known Brazilian forward, Branda, was killed accidentally by a policeman who mistook him for a hunted criminal outside the home ground of the Buensucceso club in Rio.

● The North Korean national team thrashed Rotweiss Essen, the West German club side 4-0 in Pyong Yang, the North Korean capital. The Koreans are getting ready for an eastern and central European tour.

● Gipo Viani, the former AC Milan and Italian national team boss, will coach Third Division Udinese this season.

● River Plate of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Penarol Montevideo (Uruguay) will meet in the final of Montevideo's annual Relampago Tournament in which eight South American club teams took part.

● A worthwhile new experiment from France: in the Second Division teams that score more than three goals will get a bonus point.

● After a mere half a year stay, Renato Cesarino has resigned as manager of the Argentinian national team. His reasons: the clubs refuse any co-operation and make it impossible to formulate a national team.

● Fourteen Italian coaches will again spend a fortnight in England, studying English coaching methods. England national team boss, Sir Alf Ramsey, will personally conduct the last four days of their visit.

● Lens will join Aix, Angers and Lille in the French Second Division next season. Second Division Nimes beat Lens in a play-off last week to move up to First Division with Corsican club, Bastia, the Division's outright winners.

● Santos' recent US tour attracted 110,000 spectators for six matches. The Brazilians won four and lost two games — and returned home \$110,000 richer!

● On March 12, 1969, France will meet England for the first time at Wembley in a friendly match. Though the teams met there in the 1966 World Cup, the last time France visited Wembley for a friendly international was in April 1958 — when England won 4-0.

● Stanley Matthews has resigned as general manager of English Fourth Division Port Vale, following the recent scandal involving the club's payments to players and illegal poaching of schoolboy talent.

● Persepolis, the Iranian champions, will play in the Far East later this year. Their tour will take in India, Pakistan, Cambodia, Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong.

● Honved, the crack Hungarian team, also wants to tour the Far East, but in January-February 1969. The Hungarians may be the star attraction of the annual Hong Kong Chinese New Year tournament.

● Olympiakos won the Greek Cup. They beat Panathinaikos 1-0 in the final in front of a capacity crowd of 35,000 in Athens. The Piraeus team will meet Dynamo Moscow in the first round of the European Cup-Winners' Cup this season.

● Estudiantes de La Plata's players have been promised \$3,500 apiece if they beat Manchester United in the Inter-Continental Cup final, the first leg of which will be played in Buenos Aires on September 25 and the return match in England on October 16.

● The Czechoslovakian FA has been split into three autonomous federations. Slovakia, Bohemia and Moravia will now run their own affairs, the central Czechoslovakian FA only controlling the national team and First and Second Division championship.

● Brazil accepted a \$15,000 offer to play a return match in Lima against Peru after only beating the Peruvians 4-3. The second match was won 4-0 by the Brazilians in front of 55,000 spectators.

● Most Italian First Division teams will kick-off the new season this weekend with trial matches in country towns.

● Italy's World Cup qualifying matches against Wales will be played on October 23 in Cardiff and on November 4 in Turin.

● Some Rappan Cup results: Kosice (Czechoslovakia) v. Djugarden (Sweden) 1-0, Helsingborg (Sweden) v. Biel (Switzerland) 3-0, Legia Warsaw (Poland) v. Bellinzona (Switzerland) 4-0, Innsbruck (Austria) v. Lausanne Sports (Switzerland) 3-2, Jednota Trencin (Czechoslovakia) v. Hvidrove Copenhagen (Denmark) 3-0, Hamburger SV (West Germany) v. Wiener SK (Austria) 2-2, Karlmarxstadt (East Germany) v. Biel (Switzerland) 3-0, Rostock (East Germany) v. Chaux-de-Fonds (Switzerland) 3-1, Zeiss Jena (East Germany) v. Kosice (Czechoslovakia) 3-1, Katowice (Poland) v. Orebro (Sweden) 1-0, Braunschweig (West Germany) v. Innsbruck (Austria) 3-1, Hannover 96 (West Germany) v. Frem (Denmark) 3-0.

● FC Nurnberg will have three Austrians on its staff this season: Starek, Hasil and Skocik. The fact that Nurnberg coach, Max Merkel, is Viennese, may have something to do with it . . .

Maracana Stadium honored

Rio's fabulous Maracana Stadium, the world's biggest, has been classified as a "historical monument". Two full-time guides have been appointed to conduct the thousands of tourists who visit the stadium every year. It is estimated that since Maracana was built, for the 1950 World Cup, some 98 million spectators have passed through its turnstiles. On 17 occasions more than 150,000 spectators turned up for international and club matches.

Buenos Aires tragedy sequel

A Buenos Aires court has found 12 people guilty of the recent tragedy at the River Plate Stadium in which 71 persons died in a stampede at the stadium's exit Gate 12. Eleven of the convicted are gate attendants and supervisors who failed to open the gate, where the tragedy occurred. Also accused was a company director, convicted of throwing a lit newspaper into the crowd, precipitating panic among spectators. Sentences will be passed next week.

Bukovi's return

After many years of absence from club and country, Hungary's famed manager-coach Marton Bukovi, now 60, has again become the technical manager of the great MTK of Budapest, now having a bad trot. MTK will celebrate their 80th anniversary this year and the club will erect a statue in their stadium to commemorate their greatest player ever — also regarded as Hungary's greatest — Gyorgy Orth, a legend in the 1920s who died a few years ago, after a great coaching career, with Portugal's Porto.

Franz to move?

Rumors still persist that AC Milan will buy the great German star, Franz Beckenbauer. However, as there is a complete ban on the signing of new foreign players in Italy, AC Milan may buy the elegant Franz — and then loan him out to the Swiss Lugano until the ban is lifted, perhaps next year.

Impressive German figures

Latest figures released by the West German FA show that the country had 2,619,352 registered soccer players in 1967-68 — 135,352 more than last season. There was also an increase in the affiliated clubs, which now number 16,043. Nearly 900,000 players were juniors from junior district and school teams.

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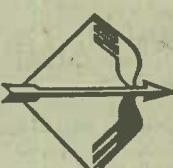
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DECLINE, PERHAPS EVEN FALL FOR PROUD H.S.C.

— From BOB LOW in Melbourne —

Why have Melbourne HSC slumped? A good question and one which has mystified their officials who have plainly admitted that they have no complete answer to the question.

The downward trend of the 1967 State League champions and Australia Cup winners has reached such alarming proportions that their very existence as a State League club is seriously threatened.

Who even in his wildest dreams would have cared to predict that Melbourne would be in such a sorry position as they are today?

The Melbourne slide started when they sold ace wing-half or inside-forward

Bob Connelly to Juventus.

The player may have wanted away — the club may have needed the money — but either way his departure was not offset by the triple signing of Mike Mandalis from Hellas, Barry Horsfall from George Cross and John McDaid, also from George Cross.

Injuries of the Hungarian side had more than

their fair share this season.

Ace centre-half Alistair Scott has been out for many

weeks and so has Henri Surma, their regular keeper.

Form has played some nasty tricks with Melbourne too in respect of their attack.

Since he returned as the Australian hero of the Saigon tournament, free-scoring inside-forward Ottie Abonyi has tried hard, but failed to reproduce the form which he displayed for Melbourne in club games in 1967.

Left-winger Colin Myers is in the same boat, and with this pair being really off color, the Melbourne attack has been punchless.

The club was slated in several quarters for "sacking" coach Billy Walsh who is now with Hakoah.

I don't subscribe to this view, neither do I slate Walsh who is one of the most experienced men in soccer here.

However, when a team nosedives so quickly as Melbourne have done, it's obvious that changes have to be made somewhere along the line.

Melbourne may yet retrieve themselves from the depths to which they have sunk.

But they will have to fight every inch of the way if they hope to succeed.

It has been noticeable in some of their matches that long before the finish they have a habit of falling away and running out of steam.

This obviously reflects on their training and fitness and the remedy must surely lie within the club itself.

STH. AUST. KEEN TO MEET N.S.W.

— From ALLAN CRISP in Adelaide —

Queensland and Western Australia have responded favorably to invitations from South Australia to play home and away interstate games.

Provided terms can be agreed upon, Adelaide fans will see both States in action against the young SA side this year.

At press time, SA secretary, Len Willmer, had not received a reply to his overture to NSW.

Annual home and away fixtures against Victoria are an important part of the SA soccer calendar, but the SA Federation is determined to increase its interstate program.

Croatia could conquer

Winners of the 1968 Ampol Cup; making their greatest ever challenge for the State League title; still in the Australia Cup; likely to be a big threat for the Dockerty Cup — Croatia face some really exciting prospects in the very near future.

What has made Croatia tick? A mixture of the attributes which go towards making a good team.

Foremost, they have a ton of ability in their ranks and this is the main reason why they are playing with so much method.

They are one hundred percent confident even to the extent of being cocky; they are well trained and fit, at least by State League standards, have a sound balance of experience which makes a first class blend with a few of the younger brigade — and the team has a fighting spirit even when all seems lost.

Croatia are not a wonder team, not even by Australian standards.

But with an ounce of luck they could make this a memorable year in pot-hunting.

They are still in the race for both the Victorian title and the Australia Cup — two tough assignments which are not beyond them.

Hellas have strong grip

WA Hellas have a strong grip on the 1968 Adelaide title following their 2-0 victory over Juventus last Saturday.

With Croatia, Victoria, Polonia, USC Lion and Beograd as their last five opponents, however, Hellas' two-point lead may yet prove inadequate.

Lion's failure to defeat Victoria last week has lessened their premiership chances to the point where they have to win all of their remaining games and trust that Hellas falters.

The championship may well hinge on the Hellas v. Lion clash on August 24.

Cumberland, without a win in 13 games, seem certain to be demoted.

Their relegation partner could be either Elizabeth or Austria who are due to meet in a "needle" game on August 10.



AUST. RESULTS, TABLES

VICTORIAN RESULTS

Polonia 1 (Gadecki) v. Slavia 0; Lions 1 (Aldis) v. Wilhelmina 1 (Atkins); Melbourne-HSC 2 (Pocock 2) v. George Cross 0; Hakoah v. Croatia 0-0; Hellas 3 (Pvrgolios 2, Ackerley) v. Alexander 2 (Margarites 2); JUST 4 (Kazi, Buljevic, Zoraja, Adamovic) v. Juventus 1 (Currie).

VICTORIAN TABLE

Croatia 10 2 4 27 18 22
Polonia 8 6 2 23 13 22
Hellas 8 6 2 29 18 22
Hakoah 8 4 26 16 20
George Cross 6 5 5 28 21 17
Wilhelmina 5 5 6 21 20 15
Lions 5 5 6 14 19 15
Alexander 5 4 7 24 32 14
Slavia 4 5 7 18 20 13
Juventus 4 5 7 19 32 13
Melbourne 3 5 8 17 28 8
JUST 3 2 11 18 32 8

MELBOURNE PROGRAM

Saturday: Juventus v. Lions at St. Kilda; Hellas v. JUST at Middle Park; Slavia v. Alexander at Olympic Park.

Sunday: Polonia v. Croatia at Marybong; George Cross v. Hakoah at Olympic Park; Wilhelmina v. Melbourne at Hindmarsh Stadium.

ADELAIDE RESULTS

Hellas 2 (Batchelor, De Lyster v. Juventus 0; Croatia 1 (Slager v. Polonia 0; Elizabeth 3 (Wadlow 3) v. Cumberland 0; Beograd 3 (Marusic, Temelkowski, Kaufmann) v. Austria 1 (Welton); Victoria 0; Lion 0-0.

BANKSTOWN SOCCER CLUB LTD.

"The Soccer Centre"

Saturday, August 3: Bankstown United v. North Bankstown. Evening: Mark Murray — Vocal/Comedy Dancing till 1 a.m.

Sunday, August 4: Bankstown Ass. Games. Evening: Variety Night Artists.

— Members' information only —

Gartmore Avenue, Bankstown, Tel.: 70-4685

WITH THE AMATEURS

RAPID-RIVERSIDE LOSES SECOND DIVISION LEAD

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

Top-of-the-table glory was short-lived for the experienced Riverside Rapid Second Division side.

THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

First Division: Blacktown v. Artarmon — Francis Park, South Sydney v. East Side-MTK — Booralee Park, NSW Uni. v. Lidcombe — David Phillips Oval.

Second Division: Yagoona v. Enmore — Bankstown Showground, Guildford v. Gymea — Guildford Oval.

Third Division: Dee Why v. West Ryde — Dee Why Oval.

Fourth Division: Central United v. Ku-ring-gai — Waverley Oval No. 2, Maroubra v. Padstow Park — Paine Reserve.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

First Division: Belmore v. Concordia — Rudd Park, Ryde v. Thistle — Hall Field, Marrickville v. Wentworth Park — Mackay Park.

Second Division: St. Marys v. Warringah Saints — Ridge Park, Kewpies v. Sydney Uni. — Colquhoun Park, Riverside Rapid v. Penrith — Mahoney Park, Auburn Juniors v. Arncliffe Scots — Progress Park.

Third Division: Condell Park v. Greenacre — Bankstown Showground, All Stars v. Rovers Juniors — Jones Park.

Fourth Division: Campbelltown v. Chelsea — Campbelltown Showground, Beverly Hills v. Newtown Progressives — Beverly Hills Oval.

Sydney Juniors

The under-14, 15 and 16 metropolitan championships are drawing to a close, with only one round remaining.

At the conclusion of the second round-robin semi-final matches in the other divisions, every title is wide open.

The all-age final was played and won last weekend by Western Suburbs over Bankstown 5-1.

RESULTS & TABLES

Under-8: Sutherland 7 d. Granville 0; Bankstown 1 d. Canterbury 0.

Under-9: St. George 1 d. Canterbury 0; Sutherland 3 d. Banks-town 0.

Under-10: Bankstown 5 d. Gladesville 1.

Under-11: Canterbury 1 d. St. George 0; Sutherland 1 d. Banks-town 0.

Under-12: Granville 2 d. Sutherland 1; Gladesville 2 d. Banks-town 0.

Under-14: Sutherland 4 d. Nepean 0; Bankstown 3 d. Manly 0; Wests 1 d. St. George 0; Canterbury 2 d. Granville 1; Gladesville 7 d. Ku-ring-gai 0.

Under-15: Nepean 2 d. Sutherland 0; Bankstown 5 d. Manly 0; Wests 2 d. St. George 1; Granville 1 drew Easts 1; Gladesville 4 d. Ku-ring-gai 0.

Under-16: Sutherland 1 d. St. Districts 0; St. George 2 d. Wests 1; Bankstown 8 d. Manly 1; Ku-ring-gai 2 d. Gladesville 1; Canterbury 3 d. Norths 0.

All-Age Final: Wests 5 d. Banks-town 1.

UNDER-16

South'n Dist. 11 3 2 45 9 27

Bankstown 12 2 3 55 20 26

Canterbury 11 1 4 48 23 23

St. George 10 3 4 46 23 23

Sutherland 9 1 7 34 33 19

Wests 5 3 9 19 36 13

Gladesville 5 1 11 34 51 11

Ku-ring-gai 2 3 11 15 45 7

Manly 2 2 13 17 67 6

UNDER-15

Bankstown 15 1 1 34 14 31

Gladesville 14 1 2 60 19 29

Easts 10 5 2 34 19 25

Wests 8 2 6 28 22 18

Granville 5 4 8 27 33 14

Sutherland 6 2 9 20 36 14

St. George 5 2 10 30 52 12

Manly 3 4 10 15 33 10

Nepean 3 3 11 17 34 9

Ku-ring-gai 2 2 12 13 36 6

UNDER-14

Bankstown 14 1 2 102 14 24

Sutherland 13 2 2 58 15 28

Gladesville 13 — 4 59 17 26

Manly 11 1 4 47 19 23

Canterbury 6 4 6 19 43 16

Granville 4 3 9 24 46 11

Wests 4 3 8 14 36

Competition Tables

FIRST DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Prague	15	3	4	47	14	28
APIA	11	3	3	42	20	25
SCU	11	1	5	47	22	23
Croatia	9	4	3	31	23	22
St. George	10	1	6	39	27	21
Hakoah	9	1	7	30	20	19
Melita Eagles	9	—	8	42	42	18
Pan Hellenic	8	—	9	33	31	16
Polonia	4	4	9	32	45	12
Canterbury	5	1	11	26	56	11
Manly	3	1	13	25	46	7
Yugal	1	—	16	9	57	2

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Croatia	12	3	2	41	14	27
Prague	12	2	3	35	18	24
St. George	10	4	3	26	19	24
Pan Hellenic	8	5	4	21	11	21
SCU	7	4	6	34	22	18
Canterbury	7	4	6	25	25	18
Yugal	5	7	5	28	16	17
Hakoah	7	2	8	26	29	16
Melita Eagles	6	3	8	33	40	15
APIA	5	2	10	20	30	12
Manly	3	3	12	19	39	7
Polonia	1	1	15	16	51	3

SECOND DIVISION

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Auburn	12	3	2	42	16	27
Bankstown	13	1	3	44	17	29
Western Subs.	13	1	3	50	21	27
Sutherland	10	3	4	33	31	23
Balgownie	8	4	5	31	19	20
Marconi	7	4	6	30	18	18
Granville	6	3	8	36	42	15
NS-Inter	5	4	8	21	41	14
N. Bankstown	2	10	30	43	12	
Corinthians	4	2	11	16	34	10
Lane Cove	3	—	14	18	48	6
Hornsby-NE	1	3	13	26	47	5

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Western Subs.	15	2	—	56	8	32
Bankstown	13	2	2	48	20	28
Balgownie	12	2	3	51	15	26
Sutherland	11	1	5	44	25	23
Marconi	8	3	6	27	25	19
Auburn	6	5	6	34	27	17
Hornsby-NE	7	1	9	28	40	15
Granville	6	2	9	42	44	14
Lane Cove	5	1	11	19	63	11
N. Bankstown	3	4	10	24	39	10
Corinthians	2	2	13	15	44	6
NS-Inter	1	1	15	22	79	3

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bankstown	16	—	1	81	10	32
Western Subs.	13	3	1	75	17	29
Sutherland	12	4	1	72	21	28
N. Bankstown	10	2	5	40	22	22
Granville	9	4	4	45	33	22
Balgownie	8	2	7	27	29	18
Auburn	6	3	8	39	41	15
Hornsby-NE	6	1	10	27	35	13
Lane Cove	3	2	12	24	63	8
Marconi	3	1	13	11	53	7
Corinthians	2	3	12	18	98	7
NS-Inter	1	1	15	19	56	3

INTER-SUBURBAN

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Went	13	1	4	54	19	27
Artemon	9	8	1	50	20	26
Thrissle	10	3	5	44	24	24
Marrickville	8	7	3	42	24	23
Concordia	9	5	4	47	28	23
South Sydney	10	3	4	31	20	23
East Side-MIK	10	1	7	54	35	21
Balmore	4	7	6	30	34	15
Blacktown	5	1	12	27	60	11
NSW Uni.	3	2	11	20	49	8
Lidcombe	3	2	13	19	64	8
Ryde	1	2	14	52	4	

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Gundford	14	1	3	52	16	29
Riverside	14	—	4	61	31	28
Emmre	12	3	5	58	27	27
Warringah	10	4	4	49	24	24
Yagoona	9	4	5	36	26	22
Auburn	9	9	3	37	38	18
St. Marys	8	1	8	39	48	17
Arcliffe Scots	6	3	9	25	33	15
Kewpies	6	2	10	29	36	14
Sydney Uni.	3	4	11	28	47	10
Parramatta	3	4	11	33	57	10
Gymea	1	—	16	15	83	2

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rovers	11	—	2	61	14	27
Condell Park	9	1	3	39	19	19
All Stars	8	2	3	35	23	18
G'ville-Hornsby	6	4	3	30	16	16
Revesby	7	—	7	35	36	14
Dee Why	5	3	5	29	28	13
West Ryde	3	3	7	25	32	9
Pfield-Kiev	1	2	10	19	59	4
Greenacre	1	—	11	21	65	3

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Campbelltown	11	1	3	54	22	23
Liverpool	11	1	3	42		